

## *2004 Press Releases*

### **September**

- 29 Attorney General Bruning Warns Nebraskans Of New Twist In Nigerian Advance Fee Scam
- 30 Attorney General Bruning To Host Second Annual Youth Advisory Council Conference Tomorrow
- 24 Attorney General Bruning Warns Vulnerable Nebraskans Named On Scam Artists' "Sucker" List
- 24 Audio Clip Featuring Attorney General Bruning Now Available
- 17 Attorney General Bruning Announces Availability Of Free Cancer-Fighting Drug For Qualified Nebraskans
- 14 Revised: Attorney General Bruning Applauds Appellate Court Ruling In Child Sex Assault case
- 10 Attorney General Bruning Praises Work Of Douglas County Officials In Confronting Abuse Of Vulnerable Adults
- 9 Attorney General Bruning To Speak At Elder Abuse Workshop In Omaha At 12:30 p.m. CT Tomorrow
- 3 Attorney General Bruning Has Nebraska State Patrol Serve Arrest Warrants IN Omaha Fraud Case

# September 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Bruning Has Nebraska State Patrol Serve Arrest Warrants In Omaha Fraud Case Guest Column:...	4
5	6	7	8	9 Bruning To Speak At Elder Abuse Workshop In Omaha At 12:30 p.m. CT Tomorrow	10 Bruning Praises Work Of Douglas County Officials In Confronting Abuse Of Vulnerable Adults	11
12	13	14 Revised: Bruning Applauds Appellate Court Ruling In Child Sex Assault Case	15	16	17 Bruning Announces Availability Of Free Cancer-Fighting Drug For Qualified Nebraskans	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Bruning Warns Vulnerable Nebraskans Named On Scam Artists' "Sucker" List Audio Clip...	25
26	27	28	29	30 Bruning Warns Nebraskans Of New Twist In Nigerian Advance Fee Scam Bruning To Host Second Annual...		



STATE OF NEBRASKA  
**Office of the Attorney General**

2115 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
LINCOLN, NE 68509-8920  
(402) 471-2682  
TDD (402) 471-2682  
CAPITOL FAX (402) 471-3297  
K STREET FAX (402) 471-4725

**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 30, 2004, 11:45 a.m. CT

CONTACT: Regan Anson  
402-471-2067

## **Attorney General Bruning Warns Nebraskans of New Twist in Nigerian Advance Fee Scam**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today warned Nebraskans of a new twist in the old Nigerian Advance Fee Scam that uses the Holocaust to lure victims.

The Nigerian Advance Fee Scam is a con in which a letter is sent via mail, e-mail or fax by an individual overseas who claims to have a large sum of money that they have inherited and need to get out of the country. The scam artists promise to pay Americans who help them transfer the money to banks in the United States in return for their assistance.

Well-intentioned recipients often find that they have been bilked out of their life savings after turning over personal financial information and after paying the scam artists' "fees and taxes." Some have even had their identity stolen.

The latest twist to the scam is a letter that attempts to distribute money left behind in Swiss bank accounts by Holocaust victims. Unfortunately, Web sites referenced in the letter are legitimate and lend validity to the scam artists' claims.

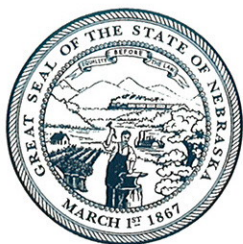
"This version of the Nigerian Advance Fee Scam is a disgusting form of exploitation meant to appeal to those who suffered incredible tragedy and loss during one of the darkest periods in the history of the world," Attorney General Bruning said. "Nebraskans should not respond to any of these types of solicitations for money and should contact my office immediately for assistance."

For additional information or to file a complaint, visit the Attorney General's Web site at [www.ago.state.ne.us](http://www.ago.state.ne.us) or call 800-727-6432 or 402-471-2682. En Espanol, 402-471-3891 o llamada gratuita, 888-850-7555.

###

*An audio clip featuring comments from Attorney General Bruning is now available at [www.ago.state.ne.us](http://www.ago.state.ne.us).*





STATE OF NEBRASKA  
**Office of the Attorney General**

2115 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
LINCOLN, NE 68509-8920  
(402) 471-2682  
TDD (402) 471-2682  
CAPITOL FAX (402) 471-3297  
K STREET FAX (402) 471-4725

**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 30, 2004, 4:45 p.m. CT

CONTACT: Regan Anson  
402-471-2067

## **Attorney General Bruning to Host Second Annual Youth Advisory Council Conference TOMORROW**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning will host the second annual conference of the Attorney General's Youth Advisory Council tomorrow, Friday, Oct. 1.

The council, comprised of 38 high school seniors from across Nebraska, is designed to involve Nebraska's youth in the processes of government and law. It also provides a forum for members to express their views on issues by facilitating an open dialogue with the Attorney General.

"The council gives students an inside look at how our government works," Attorney General Bruning said. "Engaging Nebraska's next generation of leaders in the processes of government also gives elected officials a fresh perspective on issues we deal with every day."

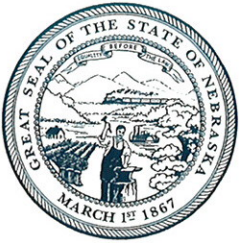
The Attorney General will open the conference with welcome remarks at 10:30 a.m. CT in the Warner Chamber at the State Capitol in Lincoln. Friday's conference agenda also includes meetings with Gov. Mike Johanns, Nebraska Supreme Court Justice John Hendry and State Sen. Ernie Chambers.

Following is a schedule of events:

### FRIDAY, Oct. 1

10:30 a.m.	Welcome Remarks by Attorney General Jon Bruning, Warner Chamber
11:00 a.m.	Council Members Tour the State Capitol
11:40 a.m.	Meet with Nebraska Supreme Court Chief Justice John Hendry, Supreme Court Chambers
12:00 p.m.	Lunch at the Governor's Mansion, Remarks from Metropolitan Utilities District Vice President of Government Affairs and Marketing Doug Clark, Council Discussion with Attorney General Bruning
1:15 p.m.	Remarks by State Sen. Ernie Chambers, Warner Chamber
1:45 p.m.	Remarks by Gov. Mike Johanns, Warner Chamber
2:30 p.m.	Tour Nebraska State Penitentiary
3:15 p.m.	Meet with a State Penitentiary Inmate
3:50 p.m.	Closing Remarks

###



STATE OF NEBRASKA  
**Office of the Attorney General**

2115 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
LINCOLN, NE 68509-8920  
(402) 471-2682  
TDD (402) 471-2682  
CAPITOL FAX (402) 471-3297  
K STREET FAX (402) 471-4725

**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 24, 2004, 2:00 p.m. CT

CONTACT: Regan Anson  
402-471-2067

## **Attorney General Bruning Warns Vulnerable Nebraskans Named on Scam Artists' "Sucker" List**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning sent letters to 139 Nebraskans today warning that they have been named on a so-called "sucker" list being sold to telemarketers and scam artists in Canada. The majority of the individuals named on the list are senior citizens who are being targeted by fraudulent prize solicitations.

The Attorney General was made aware of the scam by the Iowa Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division who shared the list with Nebraska and other states following their investigation.

In December 2003, the Iowa Attorney General's Office impounded 22,000 pieces of mail from a drop box in Des Moines. The letters were from consumers nationwide responding to prize solicitations mailed by an individual in South Carolina. The individual was taking the money contained in the letters (\$10-\$20 for "administration or pre-processing fees") and also using the solicitation to create a mailing list or "sucker" list to sell to telemarketers and scam artists in Canada.

"We are contacting all of the individuals known to have been targeted by these scam artists with the hope that we can prevent the swindling of Nebraska consumers," Attorney General Bruning said. "I encourage those who have been targeted to contact my office toll-free at 800-727-6432 to report suspicious mailings or calls."

###





STATE OF NEBRASKA  
**Office of the Attorney General**

2115 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
LINCOLN, NE 68509-8920  
(402) 471-2682  
TDD (402) 471-2682  
CAPITOL FAX (402) 471-3297  
K STREET FAX (402) 471-4725

**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEDIA ADVISORY  
September 24, 2004, 4:45 p.m. CT

CONTACT: Regan Anson  
402-471-2067

**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

**Audio Clip Featuring Attorney General  
Bruning Now Available**

An audio clip featuring comments from Attorney General Jon Bruning regarding letters he sent to 139 Nebraskans today warning that they have been named on a so-called "sucker" list being sold to telemarketers and scam artists in Canada is now available on the Department of Justice's Web site at [www.ago.state.ne.us](http://www.ago.state.ne.us).

###



STATE OF NEBRASKA  
**Office of the Attorney General**

2115 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
LINCOLN, NE 68509-8920  
(402) 471-2682  
TDD (402) 471-2682  
CAPITOL FAX (402) 471-3297  
K STREET FAX (402) 471-4725

**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 17, 2004, 10:30 a.m. CT

CONTACTS:  
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

## **Attorney General Bruning Announces Availability of Free Cancer-Fighting Drug for Qualified Nebraskans**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that financially needy Nebraskans battling cancer may be eligible to receive free doses of the cancer-fighting drug Taxol beginning this week.

A total of 13,000 vials of the infusion drug, which is used primarily to treat breast and ovarian cancer, are now available nationwide as the result of an antitrust settlement reached last April between 49 states and six U.S. territories and Taxol manufacturer Bristol Myers-Squibb. Bristol Myers-Squibb was accused of unlawfully blocking the entry of less expensive generic drugs into the marketplace.

In addition to supplying free vials of Taxol to cancer patients who meet certain eligibility requirements, the company agreed to pay \$55 million to states for damages, penalties and individual consumer redress. Nebraska's portion of the settlement, which totals \$214,886, will go toward redressing overpayments by state agencies for this drug and/or its generic equivalent. Bristol Myers-Squibb also agreed to strong injunctive relief for 10 years to prevent it from engaging in anti-competitive conduct.

Attorney General Bruning said, "This is a classic example of how something good can be derived from a bad situation. This settlement will provide some incredibly worthy individuals the opportunity to access a drug that may save their lives. I encourage Nebraskans who think they may be eligible to contact their physicians as soon as possible."

The University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) has been designated as a distribution site by RxHope, a Virginia-based administrator acting on behalf of the states. Financially needy cancer patients who think they may be eligible should contact their physician and/or UNMC to inquire about eligibility and the application process. Patients who have public or private health insurance that covers chemotherapy drugs like Taxol and Medicaid/Medicare recipients will not qualify for the program.

###





STATE OF NEBRASKA  
**Office of the Attorney General**

2115 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
LINCOLN, NE 68509-8920  
(402) 471-2682  
TDD (402) 471-2682  
CAPITOL FAX (402) 471-3297  
K STREET FAX (402) 471-4725

**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attorney General Jon Bruning  
Guest Column: September 17, 2004  
Contact: Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

**Elder Abuse a Growing Problem**

We are all getting older. From the moment we take our first breath we begin to age. While we cannot stop the clock, we can ensure that necessary services are in place when we need them the most.

Surprisingly, there is one area relating to the care of the elderly that has gone largely ignored – until now. Elder abuse, including domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, is a growing problem in Nebraska and throughout the country. The shocking reality is that elder abuse is the most hidden form of family violence and the last to be addressed by our society.

As any member of the law enforcement community can attest, violence knows no bounds. It does not discriminate against age, race or gender. A recent case that illustrates that point is one in which an 80-year-old woman was beaten and raped in her home in Omaha.

Sadly, violent crimes against the elderly go largely unreported. In fact, statistics show that while one in four child abuse cases are reported, only one in 14 elder abuse cases are reported.

There are many potential reasons for the disparity. Nebraska's elderly population grew up in an era where people did not talk about, let alone take action against, domestic violence. Many refuse to speak out when they have been victimized for fear that they won't be allowed to continue to live on their own or that their freedoms will be restricted. Others may feel foolish for having fallen victim to a certain situation.

It's vital that we make it clear that violence inflicted on elderly Nebraskans is not their fault and that seeking help is the right thing to do.

As Attorney General I am committed to doing everything in my power to protect Nebraskans, especially the most vulnerable segments of our society. That's why I am in the process of establishing a statewide task force to address violence against the elderly so that we are better prepared to respond to victims.



We owe it to the generations that came before us to address these issues. After all, they are the men and women who have survived the Great Depression, two World Wars and more history than I can cover in one short column. They deserve to be protected and they deserve justice.

By working together we can make a difference for countless Nebraskans now and long into the future.



STATE OF NEBRASKA  
**Office of the Attorney General**

2115 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
LINCOLN, NE 68509-8920  
(402) 471-2682  
TDD (402) 471-2682  
CAPITOL FAX (402) 471-3297  
K STREET FAX (402) 471-4725

**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 14, 2004, 3:50 p.m. CT

CONTACTS:  
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

## **REVISED: Attorney General Bruning Applauds Appellate Court Ruling in Child Sex Assault Case**

*\*\*\*Change is noted in the second paragraph. The original sentence was to be served concurrently.*

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today applauded the Nebraska Court of Appeals for extending the sentence of convicted child sexual predator Kenneth Chrisman of Wallace.

The Attorney General's Office, at the request of the Lincoln County attorney, filed the appeal based on an excessively lenient sentence. Chrisman was originally sentenced by a district court judge to serve two, five-to-ten-year terms concurrently on two counts of first degree sexual assault of a child. The Nebraska Court of Appeals determined that Chrisman's sentence should be served consecutively.

Attorney General Jon Bruning said, "I'm thrilled with the outcome of this case which, in effect, doubles the sentence of a convicted child sexual predator. I applaud the Nebraska Court of Appeals for recognizing the importance of keeping these criminals behind bars where they cannot victimize any other children. As Attorney General, I will continue to do everything in my power to ensure that our kids are safe and that these criminals are held accountable to the fullest extent of the law."

###





STATE OF NEBRASKA  
**Office of the Attorney General**

2115 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
LINCOLN, NE 68509-8920  
(402) 471-2682  
TDD (402) 471-2682  
CAPITOL FAX (402) 471-3297  
K STREET FAX (402) 471-4725

**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 10, 2004, 1:30 p.m. CT

CONTACTS:  
Regan Anson, AGO, 402-416-7539  
Holley Bolen, AGO, 402-471-3888  
Ann Walters, HHS, 402-595-3353

## **Attorney General Bruning Praises Work of Douglas County Officials in Confronting Abuse of Vulnerable Adults**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today offered work of praise for Douglas County law enforcement officials, prosecutors and adult protective service workers attending the Building Successful Investigations and Prosecutions of Elder Domestic Violence, Sexual Abuse and Stalking Cases Workshop in Omaha.

The two-day event is sponsored by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Eastern Service Area Adult Protective Services Division.

Attorney General Bruning said, "Elder abuse is a growing problem in our state and throughout the country that has been largely ignored, until now. As any member of the law enforcement community can attest, violence knows no bounds. It does not discriminate against age, race or gender. That's why it's so important that we implement services that combat elder domestic violence, sexual abuse and stalking."

"I'm impressed by what Douglas County has accomplished with the Douglas County Vulnerable Adult Prosecution Team. It's my sincere hope that other communities across Nebraska are able to take similar measures to protect the elderly."

Ann Walters, Adult Protective Services supervisor for HHS' Eastern Service Area, said, "Elder abuse is the most hidden form of family violence and the last to be addressed by our society. This event provides an opportunity for investigators and prosecutors to come together to learn from one another and trainers on how we can develop better responses for victims."

Featured presenters at the workshop are Candace J. Heisler, Bonnie Brandl and Randolph Thomas, all of whom are nationally recognized experts on domestic violence and elder abuse.

###



STATE OF NEBRASKA  
**Office of the Attorney General**

2115 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
LINCOLN, NE 68509-8920  
(402) 471-2682  
TDD (402) 471-2682  
CAPITOL FAX (402) 471-3297  
K STREET FAX (402) 471-4725

**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

MEDIA ADVISORY  
September 9, 2004, 2:35 p.m. CT

CONTACTS:  
Regan Anson, 402-416-7539  
Holley Bolen, 402-471-3888

**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

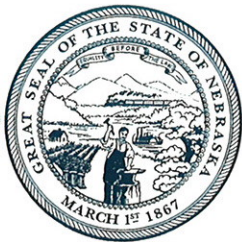
**Attorney General Bruning to Speak at Elder  
Abuse Workshop in Omaha at 12:30 p.m. CT  
TOMORROW**

Attorney General Jon Bruning will deliver remarks at the Building Successful Investigations and Prosecutions of Elder Domestic Violence, Sexual Abuse and Stalking Cases Workshop at 12:30 p.m. CT tomorrow, Friday, Sept. 10 at the Sheraton Hotel, 1615 Howard St., in Omaha.

Attorney General Bruning's remarks are part of a two-day training workshop for detectives, prosecutors and adult protective services investigators in Douglas County.

###





STATE OF NEBRASKA  
**Office of the Attorney General**

2115 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
LINCOLN, NE 68509-8920  
(402) 471-2682  
TDD (402) 471-2682  
CAPITOL FAX (402) 471-3297  
K STREET FAX (402) 471-4725

**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 3, 2004, 11:00 a.m. CT

CONTACTS: Regan Anson, AGO, 402-471-2067  
Deb Collins, NSP, 402-479-4985

## **Attorney General Bruning has Nebraska State Patrol Serve Arrest Warrants in Omaha Fraud Case**

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that the Nebraska State Patrol has served arrest warrants on two Omaha businessmen accused of conspiracy to commit theft by deception.

Thomas Kawa, 50, owner of SAF Auto (a.k.a. Money Makers Automotive Surplus Inc.) located at 619 S. 20<sup>th</sup> St. in Omaha, and his office manager Sean Flanagan, 47, were arrested yesterday for their alleged involvement in a fraudulent auto parts return scheme. Both men face two counts of conspiracy to commit theft by deception causing a loss in excess of \$1,500. Each count is a Class III felony punishable by up to 20 years in prison and/or a \$25,000 fine.

Attorney General Bruning and officers at the Nebraska State Patrol were alerted to possible improprieties with the return of certain merchandise to General Motors (GM) by investigators with the Automotive Services Division of Securitas Security Services USA Inc. and investigators assigned to the GM Global Security and Enterprise Services Division.

GM has a policy that allows dealers to return certain non-functioning parts (cores) which can be remanufactured. The policy on exchange of cores requires they be shipped to a designated re-manufacturer. The parts must have been purchased by the dealership or through dealer to dealer sales, with certain exceptions, and are required to be returned in replacement cartons. Local dealerships are also permitted to return certain unused and undamaged new parts and accessories.

The investigation with SAF Auto involves thousands of dollars of vehicle parts returned to GM for credit from June 2002 through August 2003. Investigators involved in the case determined that most of the parts were starter and alternator cores that had been misidentified with counterfeit labels and packaging to represent parts with a higher core value than the actual part returned. It is estimated that GM suffered more than \$323,000 in losses in the scheme.

Attorney General Bruning said, "Fraud against business not only affects their bottom line, it also affects the pocketbooks of Nebraskans who buy their products. We all have a vested interest in ensuring that people who commit fraud against businesses are punished for their crimes."

*(more)*

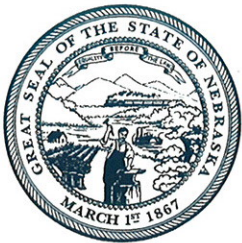
*Arrest Warrants Served in Fraud Case, Page 2*  
*September 3, 2004*

State Patrol Col. Tom Nesbitt said, "This investigation is an example of what can be accomplished through the hard work and cooperation of both public and private agencies. Everyone involved in this investigation went the extra mile to expose this scheme, which unfortunately resulted in thousands of dollars in losses for General Motors."

Kawa and Flanagan are being held in the Douglas County Jail until their arraignment at 1:30 p.m. CT today in Douglas County Court when their bond and a date for a preliminary hearing will be set.

###





STATE OF NEBRASKA  
**Office of the Attorney General**

2115 STATE CAPITOL BUILDING  
LINCOLN, NE 68509-8920  
(402) 471-2682  
TDD (402) 471-2682  
CAPITOL FAX (402) 471-3297  
K STREET FAX (402) 471-4725

**JON BRUNING**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attorney General Jon Bruning  
Guest Column: Sept. 3, 2004  
Contact: Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

**Expanded Gambling Bad News For Nebraska**

Between now and November, you'll hear that gambling will provide worry-free income for local communities; that it will lower your taxes; and that it will keep money from leaving our state. As you see and hear these claims, keep in mind that they are being made by outside interests looking to change our Constitution for their own financial gain.

Casino gambling is not economic development. It will set Nebraska back in the national competition for quality, high-paying jobs, and it will degrade the economic climate and cannibalize revenue from local businesses like restaurants, retail stores and car dealers. The bottom line is that increased access to gambling will actually cause more money to leave the state.

Casino gambling also brings enormous social costs. A recent Creighton University study found that in the 1990s, counties in the United States with casinos had more than 100 percent higher bankruptcy rates than counties without. Gambling also increases crime and creates problems of addiction and abuse for families, especially for women and children. The additional problems created by gambling will place an increased burden on our already overextended social service agencies and law enforcement, which will actually lead to *increased* taxes because the small amount of new tax revenue generated by casinos will not be enough to cover the additional costs the state will incur.

Finally, expanded gambling is bad government. There are no provisions for equitable distributions of revenue and no specifics about regulation or oversight. Reliance on gambling revenues violates all sound theories of taxation. Gambling taxes are regressive, inequitable, variable and unpredictable. The people who lose the most are often those who can afford it the least. To make budgetary decisions based on gambling receipts is irresponsible public policy.

Nebraska is blessed to have hard-working, highly educated citizens with good values and a solid work ethic. The very foundation of Nebraska's good life has always been based on those principles. We have a bright future ahead of us without expanded gambling.